

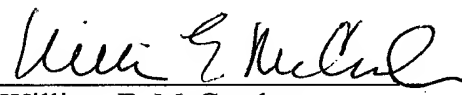
Remarks

Claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 12, 15-18, 20 and 23-27 have been amended to eliminate multiple dependencies in the claims. None of the claims has been narrowed by this amendment.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached pages 8-10 are captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

Respectfully submitted,

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Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

Claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 12, 15-18, 20 and 23-27 have been amended as follows:

4. (Amended) A bandage according to claim 2 [or claim 3] wherein the third layer is permeable to vapour, thereby allowing the skin to breathe.

5. (Amended) A bandage according to [any of the claims 2 to 4] claim 2 wherein the third layer has substantially the same absorbency as, or less absorbency than, the first absorbent layer.

7. (Amended) A bandage according to [any of the claims 2, 3 or 4] claim 2 wherein the third layer is substantially impermeable to liquid but permeable to vapour.

8. (Amended) A bandage according to [any preceding claim] claim 1, wherein the bandage is shaped to conform to the whole of the lower leg and a foot of the patient.

12. (Amended) A bandage according to [any preceding claim] claim 1 wherein the bandage has opposite side edges wherein the side edges can be overlapped to a desired degree to fit the bandage to the patient's [limb] lower leg.

15. (Amended) A bandage according to [claim 13 or claim 14] claim 12 wherein suitable tabs and/or flaps are provided to ensure appropriate overlap.

16. (Amended) A bandage according to [any preceding claim] claim 1 wherein the first absorbent layer includes a polyester viscose material.

17. (Amended) A bandage according to [any preceding claim] claim 1 wherein the second absorbent layer includes a polyester felt, suitably an hydrophilic polyester felt.

18. (Amended) A bandage according to [any preceding claim] claim 1 wherein the second absorbent layer includes cotton wool.

20. (Amended) A bandage system comprising a first bandage according to [any preceding claim] claim 1 and a second bandage being a compression bandage, the second bandage comprising a sheet of elastic material and means for releasably maintaining the sheet of elastic material in a stretched condition around the patient's lower leg.

23. (Amended) A bandage system according to [claim 21 or claim 22] claim 20 wherein the means for maintaining the material around the patient's [limb] lower leg includes an outer attachment associated with a side edge region of the sheet, the outer attachment comprising a plurality of tabs provided along substantially the length of said side edge.

24. (Amended) A bandage system according to claim 23 wherein the tabs are so provided along the length of said side edge that there are substantially no gaps between adjacent tabs when the bandage is correctly applied to [a] the patient's [limb] lower leg.

25. (Amended) A bandage system according to claim 23 [or claim 24] wherein one part of a hook and fleece fastening means is provided on an inner face of each tab and the other of said hook and fleece fastenings is provided on the sheet.

26. (Amended) A bandage system according to claim 25 wherein each tab is stretchable whereby when the second bandage is applied to the [limb] lower leg of a patient, the degree of stretch of the sheet material and of the tabs determines the pressure applied to the [limb] lower leg at the respective tab.

27. (Amended) A bandage system according to [any of claims 20 to 26] claim 20 wherein the second bandage includes visual indication means to indicate whether the correct pressure is applied to the [limb] lower leg by the bandage.